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ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN DERMATOLOGY: CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

BONEY PRIYA P JOSE[2], AKSHAYA VISWANATHAN[1], NEHA BRAHMA[1], VIMAL S[1]*, DR. AMUDHA. D[3],

[1]DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY, SAVEETHA MEDICAL COLLEGE, SAVEETHA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES, SAVEETHA UNIVERSITY, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU, INDIA.
[2]DEPARTMENT OF DERMATOLOGY, VENEREOLOGY AND LEPROSY, SAVEETHA MEDICAL COLLEGE, SAVEETHA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES, SAVEETHA UNIVERSITY, CHENNAI, TAMIL NADU, INDIA.
[3]TUTOR, DEPARTMENT OF ORTHODONTICS & DENTOFACIAL ORTHOPEDICS, SREE BALAJI DENTAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, CHENNAI, INDIA
CORRESPONDING AUTHOR *
DEPARTMENT OF BIOCHEMISTRY, SAVEETHA MEDICAL COLLEGE & HOSPITAL, SAVEETHA INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL AND TECHNICAL SCIENCES (SIMATS), THANDALAM, CHENNAI - 602105, TAMIL NADU, INDIA.

Abstract

Artificial intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing dermatology by enhancing diagnostic accuracy, expanding access to care, and personalizing treatment approaches. Current AI technologies, particularly deep learning models, have demonstrated high performance in detecting skin cancers and classifying various dermatologic conditions from clinical and dermoscopic images. AI-powered tools integrated into teledermatology and mobile platforms are improving patient reach, especially in underserved areas. Despite promising results, challenges such as data bias, lack of diversity in training datasets, ethical concerns, and regulatory hurdles persist. Future prospects include combining AI with genomics, wearable devices, and electronic health records to enable precision dermatology. Addressing these challenges through multidisciplinary collaboration will be essential to fully realize AI's transformative potential in dermatologic practice.

Keywords
Artificial intelligence, Dermatology, Skin Cancer, Deep Learning, Diagnostic Tools, Precision Medicine

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is ushering in a new era of precision and efficiency in dermatology. With the increasing availability of high-resolution dermatological images and advancements in machine learning, AI is becoming an invaluable tool in clinical dermatology (1). Currently, AI models especially convolutional neural networks (CNNs) are being trained on large datasets of dermoscopic and clinical images to recognize and classify skin lesions with impressive accuracy. These models have achieved diagnostic performance comparable to or even surpassing that of experienced dermatologists, particularly in distinguishing malignant from benign lesions (2).

One of the most prominent areas of success is the early detection of skin cancers such as melanoma, where AI-based diagnostic tools help in risk stratification, lesion mapping, and triaging patients for biopsy. Moreover, AI algorithms are now being integrated into smartphone applications, enabling real-time lesion analysis and remote dermatological assessments, thereby expanding access to dermatological care in resource-limited and rural settings (3).

AI is also making strides in non-oncologic dermatology. Emerging models are capable of identifying and classifying common conditions such as psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, rosacea, and fungal infections (Figure 1). Machine learning is being used to predict treatment response, monitor disease progression through imaging, and assist in the customization of therapeutic strategies based on patient profiles (4).

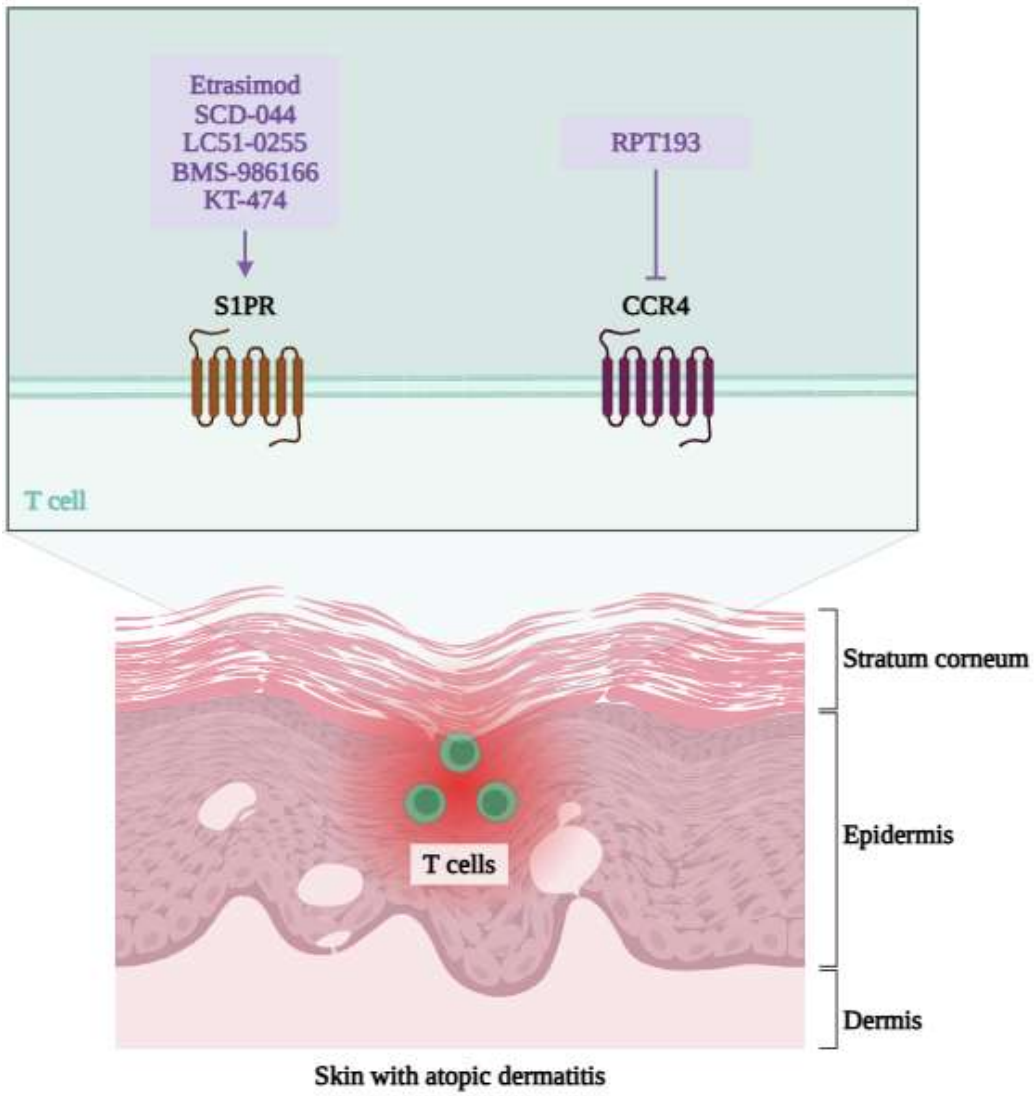
Most AI algorithms are trained on datasets that predominantly feature lighter skin types, raising concerns about bias and reduced accuracy in patients with skin of color. This underrepresentation poses a serious equity issue and underscores the need for inclusive datasets (5). Additionally, regulatory frameworks must catch up with the pace of technological innovation to ensure safety, accountability, and ethical use of AI in clinical practice. Issues

surrounding data privacy, informed consent, and the medico-legal responsibilities of AI-assisted diagnoses require urgent attention (6).

The future of AI in dermatology is promising. Integration with electronic health records (EHRs), genomics, and wearable sensor data could enable predictive modeling of disease onset and recurrence. AI could facilitate drug discovery, identify novel biomarkers, and support clinical decision-making by generating personalized treatment pathways. Moreover, federated learning and privacy-preserving AI models are emerging as potential solutions to address data sharing concerns while enabling continuous model improvement (7) (table 1).

AI is transforming the landscape of dermatological practice. While its current applications are impressive, the future holds even greater potential for innovation in diagnostics, therapeutics, and patient care. Multidisciplinary collaboration, inclusive data practices, and robust regulation will be key to harnessing the full potential of AI in dermatology while ensuring equitable, ethical, and patient-centered outcomes.

Figure 1 this figure represent the T cell infiltration in skin affected by atopic dermatitis. The upper panel shows therapeutic targets on T cells S1PR and CCR4 with their respective inhibitors. The lower panel highlights inflamed skin layers (stratum corneum, epidermis, dermis) with T cell accumulation driving inflammation.



Aspect	Description	Clinical/Research Relevance	References

Skin Cancer Detection	Deep learning (e.g., CNNs) used to identify malignant vs. benign lesions	Enhances early melanoma detection and risk stratification	(1), (2), (3)
Teledermatology Tools	Smartphone-based AI apps for remote lesion assessment	Expands care to underserved regions	(3)
Non-Oncologic Dermatology	AI models diagnose conditions like psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, rosacea, fungal infections	Broadens diagnostic capabilities beyond cancer	(4)
Bias in Datasets	Underrepresentation of skin of color in training data	Leads to reduced accuracy and fairness concerns	(5)
Regulatory & Ethical Issues	Challenges include data privacy, consent, and accountability	Requires policy frameworks for safe AI deployment	(6)
Future Integrations	AI + EHRs, genomics, wearables for precision medicine	Enables predictive, personalized care	(7)
Federated Learning	Training models without centralizing data	Preserves privacy while improving performance	(7)

Table 1. Current applications, challenges, and future directions of artificial intelligence (AI) in dermatology. It highlights AI's role in diagnosing skin cancer and other conditions, its integration into teledermatology, and concerns related to bias and regulation. The table also outlines emerging technologies like federated learning and multi-source data integration. These innovations aim to enhance precision, accessibility, and ethical use of AI in clinical dermatology.

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